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September 23, 2004

Signed Michelle Chan  
Michelle Chan

Appl. No. : 10/608,775 Confirmation No. 8132  
Applicant : George Pontis et al.  
Filed : June 26, 2003  
TC/A.U. : 1743  
Examiner :  
Docket No. : 01-001120  
Customer No. : 33140

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

### **PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Sir:

Prior to examination on the merits, Applicants respectfully request entry  
and consideration of the following amendments and remarks.

**Amendments to the Claims** are reflected in the listing of claims which  
begins on page 2 of this paper.

**Remarks** begin on page 6 of this paper.